



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

<b>Field of study in Wageningen</b>	Environmental Sciences
<b>Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)</b>	26-8-2022 until 20-12-2022
<b>Country (exchange)</b>	Norway
<b>City (exchange)</b>	Oslo
<b>University (exchange)</b>	University I Oslo
<b>Faculty (exchange)</b>	Mathematics and Natural sciences

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to experience what it is like to be in a country for months instead of a holiday and it was a nice opportunity to discover places and people I probably would not have found otherwise.

### What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

In general I like the Scandinavian countries, some really nice nature and I like the Scandinavian culture. Some friends have studied in Oslo before and I heard some really nice stories.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

**Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)**

## 4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	GEO 4100 Environmental Geology	10	Many different issues within geology and environmental sciences and their impact on society are discussed. Such as renewable energy, and the use of natural resources	2	For some topics I missed some depth in the discussion and I was not fond of the main lecturer, he mostly presented his own point of view on topics and tried to convince us he was right instead of presenting all the arguments within the discussion
2	BIOS5112 Life history strategies and climate effects	10	This course focuses on life history theory, demography and quantitative genetics for different organisms.	4	This was a very interesting course but there is a very small focus on climate effects.
3	GEO4420 Glaciology	10	The course is focused on glaciers and it's dynamics. Such as ice deformation and glacier melt rates	4	The course has a really nice excursion to a glacier. The course is very well structured and tries to cover all aspects.
4					
5					
6					

### How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)

The workload is lower than in the Netherlands. In the beginning of the year you can select courses you want to take and you have to be present during the first lecture so the teacher knows you are enrolled. You can even enroll for more than 30 ECTS in courses and drop some of the courses later when the courses are not what you are looking for. E.g. you can enrol for 4 courses of 10 ECTS, go to their first lectures and drop 1 of the courses later. The schedules are made based on the enrolments and the planners aim to reduce the amount of overlapping classes. I've had two oral examinations and 1 written examination. The focus of the courses is mostly on lectures most courses have groupwork but there are no timeslots reserved for groupwork.

### What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)

The lecturers are very approachable and the number of students in my courses were relatively low (10-40) students. Most of the lecturers enjoy the conversations with students during the breaks, even though they are not always related to course materials. In general the culture is relaxed, deadlines are not strict but a class can be cancelled a few days beforehand for various reasons as well

**What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)**

SIO which is strongly connected offers a lot of facilities for students. They provide housing, sports, other associations, laundry facilities but also day care for kids and student bars.

## 5.Housing-travelling-living

**What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)**

Most exchange students rent within SIO, while many other students rent privately. SIO will allocate exchange students to rooms, you can submit preferences but SIO recommends to accept any room. If you do not accept the first allocated room you will be moved down in the queue and apparently getting a room within SIO will be very hard. I do not have any experience with this as everybody I spoke just accepted their first offer. Prices for rent are higher than in Wageningen, I paid around 530 EUR for my room, which was slightly below average I believe.

**What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)**

Norwegians are bit more reserved than Dutch people, so if you want to get in touch with Norwegians often you will have to approach them yourselves. There are plenty of international students around, and they are very social so you don't have to be afraid that you are lonely. The Norwegian sports are hiking and cross-country skiing and any outdoor activity in general. It can become very busy outdoors when the weather is nice. Eating outdoors is generally very expensive, but there are many good coffee bars.

**Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?**

Oslo is more expensive than Wageningen. The monthly rent is higher, and especially alcohol is expensive, expect to pay at least 50 NOK for a beer but something like 100 NOK is more common place in a bar. In the supermarket a beer will cost you something like 20-30 NOK. Groceries can become very expensive when you are not paying attention, but if you are a bit considerate you will not pay much more. Vegetables are more expensive in supermarket, for cheaper vegetables you can go to Gronland where many vegetable shops are located, vegetables are way cheaper here.

**Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)**

Public transport within Oslo is very good, you can travel within the city centre for 50 eur / month. There are railway connections to several cities but trains only depart a couple of times per day, and they are quite expensive. Besides trains there are touringcars for longer distances. Due to the low population and large size of the country, many Norwegians take planes to travel within Norway and there are multiple planes departing everyday to most of the cities.

## 6. Free time

**What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)**

Northern lights are very impressive but you are unlikely to see them in Oslo. Personally I was very fond of Spro Grube, this is a cave you can visit. To get there you will need to take a ferry to the south and take the bus afterwards, in total the trip was less than an hour.

Many of the major outdoor attractions (Trolltunga, Bessegen) will be closed during winter, so keep this in mind if you want to visit them.

**What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?**

Near the natural history museum there are two greenhouses which are open year round and are free. It is nice and warm in there, especially when it is freezing outside.

There are some small caves arounds sognsvann, you can enter them but it could be nice to take a torch or headlight. If you want to visit them look for signs with "grube" and you will bump into them.

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)**

On Wednesday you can go to Mabu, which has a happy hour on Wednesday evening. Another cheap bar is Perestrojka.

If you are into hiking you can rent cabins from DNT for a 50-100 NOK a night, there is a wood stove and gas burners to cook but most cabins lack electricity and a tap for water.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Getting settled was most challenging for me during the first weeks everything is new, there are many small things to arrange and many people you will meet. So I recommend to take things easy the first weeks, get your priorities straight and make sure you have some spare time.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

Hiking on the Mittalsbreen glacier with the Glaciology course. It was something I normally would not do on my own and all of my fellow students were very nice and we had some interesting talks. And I won't forget our afternoon swim in the lake with glacial melt water.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

<b>Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?</b>	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Name/e-mail</b>		

